

Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with the status of volunteer fire fighters from the point of view of social capital development. Because of that subject it belongs to studies exploring phenomenon volunteering. Association of volunteer fire fighters is traditional volunteer organization and its success and expansion in the individualistic present society are the basic questions of the study. The answers on the questions connected with unique status of volunteer fire fighters between Czech volunteers were searching by using analysis of collective social capital. Importance of traditions, social networks and status of volunteer fire fighters in their communities were revealed by quantitative and qualitative approaches. It seems that the main sense of existence of volunteer fire departments is not only the protection of people against fires and accidents but also helping communities to maintain their collective social life. By this action are volunteer fire fighters instrumental in keeping cohesion of local citizens and in social capital development.